



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

## **Arizona Department of Public Safety's GIITEM and the Arizona Gang Investigators Association holding three-day conference on gangs**

Starting today, 420 law enforcement officers from around Arizona and eight other states will be attending a gang suppression conference here in Phoenix at the Sheraton Hotel located at Interstate 17 and Dunlap Road.

The emphasis of the conference is law enforcement training with instructors from California, Utah, Washington and New York. Special emphasis will be placed on Arizona gang issues and developing trends.

"It's important for police officers dealing with gang issues in their communities to come together, exchange information, and learn from each other. This allows officers to learn what works and what doesn't work when combating gangs so they can return home and put into place new techniques in both intelligence gathering and gang enforcement," said Lt. Andy Vasquez of GIITEM.

GIITEM, which stands for Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission, seeks to accomplish the following:

1. Deter criminal gang activity through investigations, arrest and prosecution
2. Dismantle gang related criminal enterprises
3. Deter border related crimes
4. Disrupt human smuggling organizations
5. Collect, analyze, and disseminate gang and illegal immigration intelligence
6. Provide anti-gang awareness training to communities and schools

Contact: Lt. Andy Vasquez

\*for those media wishing to cover the conference and arrange interviews with Lt. Vasquez please contact the DPS PIO email: [pio@azdps.gov](mailto:pio@azdps.gov)

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